

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to on the grounds that the feed drive servomotor is not shown. However, it is respectfully submitted that Fig. 14 shows a feed drive servomotor 53B. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the work carrying device of the pressing machine comprises a plurality of feed carriers provided on the bars and movable along each of the bars, and a plurality of feed drive mechanisms, each provided on one of the bars and driving the feed carriers provided on that bar along that bar in the work transfer direction.

Claim 5 has been amended to remove the word "or" so that claim 5 recites that the fixed bars are supported by the lift drive mechanism, and claim 19 has been added to recite the embodiment wherein the fixed bars are supported by the clamp drive mechanism.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite that a plurality of the feed carriers are held by each of the bars and that motion of the

feed carriers is controlled such that each of the feed carriers is able to move in a different manner than other of the feed carriers. This feature is disclosed in the specification at, for example, page 20, lines 10-20, wherein the individual motion of each of a plurality of feed carriers (i.e., different motion of each feed carrier relative to the others) is described.

In addition, claims 2-5 and 16 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and clarifications, so as to put them in better form for issuance of a U.S. patent.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered. In addition, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 15 under 35 USC 112 be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3-5, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 4,540,087 ("Mizumoto"), and claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Mizumoto in view of USP 5,782,129 ("Vanderzee et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a work carrying device of a pressing machine comprises frames provided on both sides of a moving bolster in a work transfer direction, a pair of bars provided in parallel in

the work transfer direction, a plurality of feed carriers provided on the bars and movable along each of the bars, a plurality of feed drive mechanisms, each provided on one of the bars and driving the feed carriers provided on that bar along that bar in the work transfer direction, a lift drive mechanism provided in each of the frames and which drives the pair of bars in a lift direction so that the bars move vertically, a clamp drive mechanism provided in each of the frames and which drives the pair of bars in a clamp direction perpendicular to the work transfer direction, and a work holder detachably attached to the feed carrier for holding a work object.

With this structure, a significant advantage is achieved in that movement of the feed carriers, and the work holders when connected thereto and work objects held by the work holder, is enhanced since the feed carriers (52) are provided on and movable along the bars (14) via one of the feed drive mechanisms (53) provided on each of the bars (14) and drives the feed carriers (52) provided on that bar along that bar in the work transfer direction. As such, the feed carriers (52) move relative to the bars (14) via a feed drive mechanism (53) that itself is provided on the bars (14).

It is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art references do not disclose or suggest a plurality of feed carriers provided on a pair of bars and movable along each of the bars and a plurality of feed drive mechanisms, each provided on

one of the bars and which drive the feed carriers provided on that bar along that bar in the work transfer direction.

Mizumoto discloses a work transfer apparatus including a pair of bars 22, a drive mechanism 30 that longitudinally reciprocates the bars 22, and carriages 62 arranged at one end of the bars 22. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that carriages 62, which the Examiner considered to correspond to the feed carriers of the present invention, are not provided on the bars and movable along each of the bars as according to the claimed present invention. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the feed drive mechanism 30 of Mizumoto causes motion of the bars 22 and does not drive any feed carriers provided on the bars along the bars in the work transfer direction, as according to the claimed present invention.

Vanderzee et al, moreover, also does not disclose feed carriers provided on a pair of bars and movable along each of the bars and feed drive mechanisms, each provided on one of the bars and which drive the feed carriers provided on that bar along that bar in the work transfer direction, as according to the claimed present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5, 15 and 16 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Mizumoto taken singly or in combination with Vanderzee et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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